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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 ICA-11 /106 W
----------008860 181550Z /43
R 170838Z MAY 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6193
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1040

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PEPR, IZ, SS, SP
SUBJECT: IRAQI RELATIONS WITH SPAIN: THE HORN

REF: (A) STATE 121120, (B) BAGHDAD 1029, (C) BAGHDAD 1039
(ALL NOTAL).

1. REF C REPORTED IRAQI SATISFACTION WITH VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT MA'ROUF TO MADRID, WHICH APPEARS TO ECHO SPANISH VIEWS ON THE SAME SUBJECT (MADRID 4824 NOTAL).

2. SPANISH AMBASSADOR ULLRICH WHO WAS IN MADRID FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL

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VISIT, IS AN EXPERT AND PRAGMATIC DIPLOMAT. IN CONVERSATION WITH ME MAY 15, HE WAS PRACTICALLY RHAPSODIC IN DESCRIBING CURRENT STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN HIS COUNTRY AND IRAQ. ON THE BASIS OF HIS DESCRIPTION, THE TWO COUNTRIES SEE EYE TO EYE ON EVERY ISSUE.

3. SINCE SPAIN AND CUBA ALSO HAVE EXCELLENT RELATIONS, AND

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SINCE MA'ROUF WENT FROM MADRID TO HAVANA, IT SEEMED
APPROPRIATE TO ASK WHETHER SUBJECT OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN
AFRICA HAD COME UP DURING MADRID VISIT. ULLRICH WAFFLED
SOMEWHAT ON THIS ONE BUT DID MAKE IT CLEAR THAT SPAIN IS
APPREHENSIVE OVER POSSIBILITY THAT CUBANS COULD BECOME
INVOLVED, VIA ALGERIA, IN POLISARIO EFFORTS. HE THEN WENT ON
TO SAY THAT IRAQIS ARE INDEED AWARE OF A GROWING PROBLEM STEMMING
FROM CUBAN ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT AFRICA, AND PARTICULARLY
IN THE HORN. HE SAID THAT IRAQIS HAD STATED THEY
INTENDED TO RAISE ISSUE IN HAVANA.

4. COMMENT: FOREGOING IS REPORTED AS FURTHER CONFIRMATION,
IF ANY IS NEEDED, THAT IRAQIS ARE NOW INDEED ON THE RIGHT
TRACK, AS STATED REF A. GOI IS CLEARLY BECOMING INCREASINGLY
CONCERNED, AND MAY THEREFORE BE MORE AMENDABLE THAN USUAL
TO EXPRESSIONS OF SIMILAR CONCERN, APPROPRIATELY LOW-KEYED,
FROM OTHERS.
PECK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BAGHDA01040
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780209-0915
Format: TEL
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780552/aaaabrgz.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 93313e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 121120, 78 BAGHDAD 1029, 78 BAGHDAD 1039
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2671707
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRAQI RELATIONS WITH SPAIN: THE HORN
TAGS: PDIP, PEPR, IZ, SS, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/93313e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014